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S E C R E T

Report -

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Copy 3 of 4

8 April 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Operations, OSA
THROUGH : Chief, SAS/O/OSA
SUBJECT : Program Progress Report

Attached is the Program Progress Report on the
Aero Medical and Life Support Activities for the
period 1 January 1974 thru 31 March 1974.

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Chief, Aero Medical Staff
Office of Special Activities

Attachment
As stated above

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AMS/OSA/
Distribution:
1 - Addee w/att
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B. Life Support Activities

1. New Assignment for Life Support Officer

[redacted] was assigned to AMS/OSA 29 January 1974 as new Life Support Officer. [redacted] replaced [redacted] who was reassigned to the Surgeon General's Office 14 January 1974.

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2. RQ225 Parachute Repack

In an effort to save transportation charges by periodically sending parachutes from Detachment H to Detachment G for repacking, the Protective Equipment (PE) Technician is now repacking the RQ-225 personal parachute at Detachment H as they become due for repack. The chutes then are returned to the prime contractor, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, for inspection. At the present time only minor discrepancies have been noted. Further evaluation will be accomplished to insure proficiency in repacking this unique parachute.

3. U-2R Survival Kit Rations

A new type mission ration for the U-2R survival kit has been received from Natick Laboratories in Massachusetts to replace the outdated CD-7 which are no longer available. Evaluation of the new ration proved to be almost as good as the CD-7 and certainly better than anything else in the inventory.

4. Automatic Survival Kit

A briefing was given to AMS/OSA on 11 January and 18 March by [redacted] ARO Corporation Manager of Buffalo Division, Buffalo, New York. The briefing was a status report on the Terrain Activated Deployment System (TADS) for the survival kit.

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A price quote of [redacted] was given to build a protective microwave integrated circuit for present tested breadboard. On 29 January [redacted] briefed Col William Quinn, Chief, Life Support, SPO, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, on the TADS to see if the Air Force would be interested in the system. At the present time it is under consideration by the Air Force who have shown great interest.

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5. Shark Deterrent Screen

Prototype shark screens from the David Clark Company and the Rocket Jet Engineering Company were evaluated by Dr. C. Scott Johnson, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, San Diego, California, on 12 January 1974. The bags constructed by each company were acceptable, however, the one constructed by David Clark Company was rated superior. At present time we are waiting for a price quote from each company on construction of sixty (60) each.

6. Solid Battery Pack for ASR-100A - Survival Radio

New battery packs have been shipped to field units to replace the pen light batteries which have been very unsatisfactory.

7. Prototype Helmet S1010 Protective Assembly

At present time the helmet is still undergoing testing and field evaluation.

8. Prototype Polycarbonate Helmet

A prototype polycarbonate helmet was manufactured by Air Lock Incorporated, Milford, Connecticut, for testing and evaluation. [redacted] AMS/QSA Life Support Officer, as well as [redacted] of Air Lock Incorporated, conducted tests on the helmet at the USAF School of Aviation Medicine, Brooks AFB, Texas. The purpose of these tests was to determine the amount of residual carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the helmet. Tests were conducted at ground level and simulated altitudes of 8,000, 18,000, and 29,000 feet with no significant changes noted at the various altitudes. As there was no baseline established for standard pressure suit helmets, a similar test was conducted on the S1010 full-pressure suit helmet with almost identical results. [redacted] also conducted a briefing on the helmet for the U-2 pilots at Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona, and at [redacted]

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The consensus of opinions was that the new approach is good and would be well received. However, additional modification would have to be made before it could be an acceptable flight item.

9. Life Support Conference

A Life Support Conference was held in Washington, D. C., 19-20 March 1974. [redacted] attended this meeting.

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